



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
February 15, 2022**

Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Belledune Council Chambers via Electronic Live streamed on Belledune YouTube
Present: Mayor,, Paul Arseneault
Deputy Mayor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Councillor, Kristie Carrier
Councillor, Lillian Carmichael
Councillor, Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell
Staff Present: Interim CAO – Scott Ferguson
Clerk/Treasurer – Brenda Cormier
Assistant Clerk – Nicole Carrier

Mayor, Arseneault called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor, Arseneault read the Acknowledgement of “Treaties of Peace Friendship”.

Council read the Oath of Office.

ADOPT AGENDA

M 2022/02/15-23

**Lilliane Carmichael moved to adopt the Agenda as presented., seconded by Kristie Carrier.
MOTION CARRIED.**

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Councillor, Carrier, Rental Space in Municipal Building.

PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS: Nil

5. BUSINESS:

DEPUTY MAYOR, BOURQUE

• **NB Power Update**

Deputy Mayor, Bourque talked about Mr. Hermel Vienneau, who is the Chairperson of the Belledune Port Authority, Board of Directors. How connected he is with the Premier, he discussed Mr. Vienneau’s various offices he held with the province, and his affiliation with various departments and businesses in the province and elsewhere. He also has been selected to be on the Transition Committee for the Municipal Reform. He is also affiliated with the President and CAO, of NB Power, Mr. Keith Cronkite. With all that being said, Mr. Vienneau will be working with the Port, Province and First

Nations on a committee to develop Northern NB. If Council would have any questions; they can be sent to Deputy Mayor, Bourque or Mayor, Arseneault.

Mayor, Arseneault brought up about the meeting with Mr. Vienneau, who is the Premier's right-hand man. The meeting was not mentioned to anyone, it was a good meeting, there were various items discussed. He will ask Mr. Vienneau if Council can meet with him at their next meeting. It will depend on how Mr. Vienneau feels about it. If it is limited to just the Mayor does Council still wish for him to attend? Mayor, Arseneault said it use to bother him when the previous Mayor, was the only one to attend meetings.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque said that it is imperative that Mayor, Arseneault be at all the meetings, no matter what, as they are discussing Economic Development.

Councillor, Carmichael said that the Mayor is the spokesperson for Council and even though she would like to attend, she feels it is important for the Mayor, to attend.

Councillor, Carrier asked if there was only 1 meeting and what will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor, Arseneault said that Mr. Vienneau is an important person for the Village to know.

Councillor, Carrier asked what would be the reason he would have, to not meet with all of Council.

Mayor, Arseneault said the next meeting was on March 8, he will talk to Mr. Vienneau and let Council know.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque mentioned that he has monthly meetings with Jenna McDonald at the Port, Mrs. McDonnald is no longer with the Port however Jennifer would like to continue to have these meetings. He was not told where Mrs. McDonald went however, he said that she will still be a strong and positive person working for the development of Northern NB.

COUNCILLOR, CARRIER

- **Discussion concerned maintained roads and having a map provided showing us the roads that are maintained and the ones that are not.**

Councillor, Carrier said that she didn't get what she was expecting with the list and map. It was only the streets and the mileage. She would like a map that has blue roads for the maintained and red roads for the unmaintained. She would like to see changes made to the policy for maintaining all roads. For example, if there are so many houses on a road or street then the status should change. She wanted to know what Council's thoughts were.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque said he would like to shed some light on what previous Councils had discussed. They had said that if there were 3 houses put on a street, that Council would consider taking over the street and supplying the services.

Councillor, Robinson said that the request that came from Mr. Marshall to have the street, that is already there, plowed to the end where his house is. Another 300 meters. She doesn't understand what the problem is.

Councillor, Carrier said for example, if there was 1 house on the Lake Rd. we wouldn't plow to the end of the Lake Road, but just go to end of that 1 house.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque said the policy is 3 houses. He mentioned that some streets cross the railroad tracks, it's a question of safety. Also prior to purchasing that home on Laviolette St., the purchaser was aware of the situation of the plow not going down that far.

Councillor, Carrier said that a lot of homes were built on family's land and not always where people wanted to build, the land was either given to them or that was all they could afford at the time. Some people cannot get their roads plowed; however, others have contractors hired to plow their road and the village is paying.

Councillor, Carmichael said that they have to make sure what streets are being done, if there is a proper turning area for safety reasons, etc., its not just a matter of sending someone to go down to plow a street.

Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell said that with the way our Village is growing and expanding, they have to take a look at the streets and the turning areas, and where they need turning areas.

Councillor, Robinson wanted to know why Conservation, Green Lane and Shannon was added this year.

CAO, Ferguson said that he made that mistake, they were on the list from DTI previously and he didn't know that. They were always maintained streets. Only a section of Shannon Drive is not, but the rest are maintained.

Councillor, Carrier said she was not aware that the municipality still owned a portion of that road.

Mayor, Arseneault stepped down as chairperson; he said with the way the Village is growing, changes need to be made when we do the snow plow plan. Councillor, Robinson and Councillor, Carrier have made excellent points, we have to adjust to the people moving in.

Councillor, Carrier said everyone has to pay the same tax, so why are they paying for services if they can't get all the services.

CAO, Ferguson said that he inquired what the price would be to have a contractor plow to the end of Laviolette St., it would be about \$30,000 to \$40,000/ year. DTI will not go down there because it is unsafe and their policies won't allow the plow to go down there.

Councillor, Carrier asked why it is unsafe.

Deputy Mayor, Bourque said that the province does not allow the village to have different tax rates for citizens, they have 2 tax rates because 1 is for industrial and 1 is for citizens. He said that the Village of Belledune is the only place in the province that has 2 tax rates.

Councillor, Carrier asked again why it was unsafe for the plow to go down that street.

CAO, Ferguson said that DTI won't go past the tracks because there are no signals, etc. However, he will ask them again.

Councillor, Carrier said the snow plow can't go down but the school bus can.

- **Goggle Calendar**

Councillor, Carrier would like to see a goggle calendar or something that is overseen by staff that will keep track of meetings, when something is changed, when different meetings are, etc.

Councillor, Carmichael said that would be a great idea especially when the committee meetings start. They will need to know when the meetings are and not book different meetings on the same night.

CAO, Ferguson suggested that Administrative Assistant Carrier could work on the calendar, or the new CAO. It's an easy thing to do.

CAO, FERGUSON

- **Capital Asset Management Plan**

CAO, Ferguson had sent out the documents as attachments to the meetings Agenda.

Council discussed the following items:

- Inventory List
- Cost of getting the plan done, where will the money come from – cannot come out of Capital Reserve, take money from other areas in the budget, Councillor, Carrier said to break it down over 2 years, as mentioned previously
- CAO, Ferguson needs to know what is the next step.
- Councillor, Robinson said that with the cost of the proposal from RV Anderson, and the money that was already paid, there should be specs done up and it should be sent out to other firms to bid on, that should be the next step.
- Deputy Mayor, Bourque asked if the other firms had access to the inventory that was already completed, and he wanted to know how much the previous Council spent.
- CAO, Ferguson did not know, Clerk/Treasurer Cormier said she will check and send the amount out by email. Councillor, Robinson said the amount previously paid was \$50,000.
- Deputy Mayor, wants to know if we need to start all over. The documents that the Village has; can we use them as they belong to us and was paid for.
- Mayor, Arseneault would like Council to take a look at the documents that we already have. Council needs to know what are in those documents. Clerk/Treasurer Cormier will send out the documents to Council.
- CAO, Ferguson mentioned that the inventory needs to be updated as it was in 2017. Councillor, Robinson said it was done in 2019; the report states 2019 however the new Municipal building was not included, and there have been other assets purchased since then.

Directive – CAO, Ferguson to prepare specs and go out for bids.

- **Last Rental Space on the West Wing of the Building**

Councillor, Carrier vacated meeting at 7:50 P.M, due to Conflict of Interest

Directive for CAO, Ferguson – in regards to the last rental space on the West Wing, what does Council want to do with the room. How much does Council want to spend on the room, rent without doing a lot of work. Easy to call contractors to come and give a quote.

Council discussed the following:

- Mayor, Arseneault asked Council what they would like to do with the space.
- Councillor, Carmichael asked if someone was interested in renting the space.
- CAO, Ferguson said that MacDougall's Auctioning (the owner) had contacted him and was interested in renting the room for extra offices. They would use dividers instead of building offices.
- Councillor, Carmichael, need to do the ceiling, floors and walls, painting, etc. Do the minimum required and rent it out.
- Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell, get it done sooner rather than later.
- Councillor, Robinson said that there is no documentation in regards to this request.
- CAO, Ferguson said it is up to Council as to what they want to do.
- Both Councillor, Carmichael and Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell agree to get the bare minimum done and rent it out.
- Councillor, Robinson, they cannot just go ahead and do renovations when it was already decided that nothing would be done on that room this year. Nothing is in the budget for it. The space has to be offered to anyone who might want to rent it. Where is the money coming from to renovate this space?
- Councillor, Guitard-McDonnell, that is what happens, Council sits on everything and nothing gets done. If someone wants to rent the space then the work should be done.
- Councillor, Robinson, a decision was already made not to renovate this space.
- Deputy Mayor, Bourque, the space needs to have the bare minimum done in order to do anything with it. Need to know the cost to do this. The party that is interested in renting it, is it short-term or long-term, what is the normal contract lengths.
- Clerk/Treasurer Cormier, there are different leases for the various spaces in the building.
- Council gave the directive to CAO, Ferguson to go out and get prices as to what needs to be done so the space is rentable.

Councillor, Carrier returned to meeting.

- **Acadie-Bathurst Titan Request**

CAO, Ferguson recommends that due to the timing of the request, covid-19, etc. that Council not go ahead this year, since the season is almost over, and wait until next season. The kids do enjoy meeting the players and going to the games, etc.

- Councillor, Carmichael, ask them to send the proposal in September.
- CAO, Ferguson will get in touch with Serge.
- Mayor, Arseneault, is everyone in agreement, yes.

- **Port of Belledune – Board of Directors, Municipal Appointment Update**

The Village representative, Paul Shannon's term is up as of April 1, 2022. A replacement should be in place by then.

Discussion by Council:

- Will a flyer be sent out? Yes, a flyer will be sent out, also put the notice on Village's website and Facebook page.
- Must be a resident of the Village of Belledune, the conditions are attached to the meeting Agenda.
- Council makes the decision based on the conditions of the Canada Marine Act.
- Councillor, Robinson, the address to send the applications to should be the Village office and not Port.

CAO, Hiring Committee Update – CAO, Ferguson just gave a quick update in regards to the CAO, Hiring committee. There are 15 applicants, some very qualified with backgrounds in the Municipal field. A short list will be made, and interviews will be conducted. It is very important to recognize all the work that this committee has done, the time and effort that has went into this process and that the recommendation they give must be taken seriously.

Mayor, Arseneault asked if anyone had any comments regarding the CAO, Hiring Committee.

Councillor, Carmichael said she was looking forward to getting the new CAO.

ADJOURNMENT

M 2022/01/10-2

Lilliane Carmichael moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 P.M., seconded by Marilyn Guitard-McDonnell. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

Assistant Clerk

Meeting streaming on Village of Belledune You Tube Channel at <https://youtu.be/Q-8Z450HXcw>